MONTEREY NEWS

December 2000
VOLUME XXX · Number 12

The Town

The Election

Approximately 80 percent (497) of Monterey's 609 registered voters voted in the November election. Gore carried the town with 279 votes to Bush's 118 and Nader's 85. The remaining presidential votes were divided among Browne (Libertarian, 2), Buchanan (Reform, 6), Hagelin (unenrolled, 1), and ballots left blank or having double votes (6). Kennedy and Olver easily won the races for the Senate and Congress. Kennedy received 354 votes with Robinson following with 78 votes. The race for U. S. Representative was closer with 334 votes for Olver to 143 for Abair. Nuciforo and Hodgkins were unopposed in their bids for reelection as State Senator and State Representative. In other races, O'Brien beat Moriarty 314 to 120 for Councilor in the 8th District, and the positions of Clerk of Court for Berkshire County and Register of Deeds for Berkshire District were uncontested.

Of the ballot questions, the "yes" votes beat the "no" votes in Monterey on all questions except for Question 6 (personal and corporate excise tax credit for Massachusetts tolls and motor vehicle excise taxes). The voting results were as follows: Question 1 (earlier redistricting for state legislature): 378 yes/83 no; Question 2 (limiting voting rights for incarcerated felons): 238 yes/235 no; Question 3 (ban on dog racing): 376 yes/97 no; Question 4 (reducing state income tax): 274 yes/200 no; Question 5 (health care): 316 yes/144 no; Question 6 (tax credit for tolls): 191 yes/273 no; Question 7 (creating state income tax deduction for charitable contributions): 324 yes/141 no; Question 8 (changing state laws governing drug dependency treatment and drug crimes): 258 yes/202 no; and Question 9 (adoption of Berkshire Council of Governments Charter): 243 yes/194 no.

Dean Amidon

Jay Amidon (on ladder), Rick Andrus, and Mickey Burns installing new Greene Park backboards in October.

Town Hall Renovation

The project to remove the handicap barrier for Town Hall is scheduled to begin within the next couple of weeks with a completion date of sometime in May 2001. A new entryway with an elevator and a double stairway will be added to the west side of Town Hall. Inside the existing structure, a ramp will be constructed going from the main floor to the assessor's office. This is the first stage of the planned renovations to the Town Hall, most of which will be funded by the state.

Greene Park Playground

The playground which was damaged by a water line break in August will be relocated as soon as the handicap barrier removal project for Town Hall is completed. It will be relocated to the west side of the baseball field. All equipment that is not replaced will be thoroughly cleaned. A settlement from the insurance company will pay for a portion of the cost for the cleanup and relocation.

Edith Wilson House

Steps are being taken to stabilize the deteriorating condition of the Edith Wilson house. The section of the house that was in the worst condition was removed this fall. A hole in the roof will be patched and an exterminator called to assess the carpenter ant problem. A complete survey of the house is planned for the winter.

School District News

Superintendent Cooper met with the Selectman on November 13 and advised them that there are excess funds available in Chapter 70 money for fiscal year 2001. This money represents the difference between the preliminary cherry sheet figures and the actual cherry sheet figures. The Board of Selectmen voted to authorize the school committee to use the money as they see fit.

Mike Mielke spoke of the importance of "late buses" which allow Monterey students who attend the regional schools to participate in after-school activities. Maryellen Brown forwarded the current late bus schedule, which is reprinted here. Service will be provided at 4:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. On Mondays there will **only** be a 4:15 bus. There will be **no 5:45** bus on the following days: October 30 through November 21 (full service resumes on November 27); February 26 until March 15 (full service will resume on March 19); and June 4, 5, and 6. There will be **no bus service** on November 1 and November 22, January 31, February 28, May 9, May 31, and June 7. This schedule is subject to change.

Another issue discussed at the meeting with Superintendent Cooper was the status of the Monterey School: its current physical condition, maintenance, and options for the building's future. The building is in need of immediate repairs costing approximately $2,000. The feasibility of constructing a new primary school with a multipurpose civic center on the Edith Wilson property or property near the Town Hall was discussed. The availability of state funding is being investigated.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

Fran Amidon

Dean Amidon sinks the first basket on the new hoops.

Bob Curtiss

Many of you have noticed that Bob Curtiss is no longer at the transfer station. He is at home ill; if anyone wishes to send him holiday greetings, his address is P.O. Box 141, South Egremont, MA 01230.

This will be no Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, December 4, 2000.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt

Berkshire Children's Chorus

The Berkshire Children's Chorus, directed by Nancy Loder, will be performing in a concert at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy Chapel in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, on Sunday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. The *Berkshire Children's Chorus* is a community chorus comprised of students in grades 6–9. The apprentice chorus, *Start Up*, is composed of students in grades 3–5, and the newest chorus, *Coda*, is comprised of students in the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades.

The choruses will sing a wide range of repertoire including selections by J. S. Bach, Gustav Hoist, Leonard Bernstein, and several contemporary settings of traditional holiday carols.

The public is cordially invited to attend this concert. A $5.00 donation is suggested to support the work of this chorus. Anyone seeking further information about these concerts can call Nancy Loder, 528-9285, or Laura Smith, 229-8346.

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The Election in Monterey

The ballot box used in Monterey always draws my attention when I go to vote; it has a certain elegance because of its beautiful wood (oak) and sturdy construction (put together with pegs and glue), but there is just a touch of Rube Goldberg thrown in. I like to hang around a little when I go to vote, partly to visit with neighbors and partly to watch the box in operation. The election officers—the Election Warden (currently Ray Tryon), the Election Clerk (Linda Thorpe), and two assistants (John Bodnar and Joel Schick)—are in charge of the box, and one of them always operates it. These officers are appointed by the Select Board in consultation with the Town Clerk, and the intent is always to have a balance between Republicans and Democrats.

John Bodnar was on duty when I handed in my ballot this time, and he carefully ironed it with a with the edge of a plastic burnisher (presumably to avoid jamming in the slot and to take up less space in the box) before placing it in the slot and turning the hand crank one complete revolution. My ballot inched inward, then disappeared; I could hear some gears turning and there was a pleasing faint ding as the counter advanced by one.

What I didn't see, but found out later from Town Clerk Barbara Swann and Linda Thorpe, was what was happening inside the box as my ballot made its passage. The crank turns a set of wooden gears that rotate a belt that turns the shaft of a small wheel about the diameter of a fifty-cent piece. On the thick edge of the wheel the word MONTEREY is embossed in raised letters. As the belt turns the letters come into contact with ink in a reservoir; then are pressed against the ballot passing through the slot, "cancelling" it. All official ballots must bear this cancellation mark. Finally the stamped ballot drops into the box, joining your votes, neighbors.

The ballot box was made around 1930 by a company named Cross in Worcester. (Only ballot boxes and voting machines approved by the Secretary of State can be used; the individual towns pay for their equipment. Many of the voting machines in use in Florida are not approved for use in Massachusetts. See Senator Nuciforo's article on p. 9.) The company went out of business in the early 1990s, but our Town officials had the foresight to have the Monterey ballot box refurbished before Cross ceased operations, so we should be able to use it for some years to come. Before the box was refurbished, one turn of the crank would occasionally result in two dings, two clicks on the counter, which required immediate correction by the election officers so that there would not be an incorrect record of the number of votes cast.

If there is a high voter turnout, as there was in the November election, the box will not hold all the ballots, so it must be emptied at some point during the day to prevent it from becoming jammed (and of course not stuffed); experience has shown this point to be when the counter reaches about 300. The box can only be emptied by one of the election officers, and it must be done in plain view. It is emptied into a cardboard box and sealed, and the seal is signed by the officer. The cardboard box with the ballots must then be kept in plain view at all times; this year it was kept beside the ballot box. The key to the ballot box is kept by the officer on duty. Actually there are three keys and three locking doors on the box: the top of the box can be unlocked and taken off to access the gear and belt mechanism; one side of the box can be opened to take out the ballots; and the slot on the top front where the ballots are inserted can be closed or opened with a third key. When the polls open on election day, an election officer unlocks and opens the ballot slot and resets the counter to zero; the slot is closed and locked when the polls close.

The ballots, including all those for voting machines, are designed and printed (and paid for) by the Commonwealth, under the direction of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then mails the ballots to all town clerks before the election; the number sent to each town is determined by the number of registered

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voters, with enough extras to allow for mistakes (Monterey received 750 ballots for 609 registered voters). The ballots come in bundles of fifty and are kept under the control of the Town Clerk. Before the election, the Town Clerk checks the ballots to verify the total number; the ballots are kept in bundles of fifty after the Clerk verifies that each bundle does in fact contain exactly fifty. The Clerk also prepares the current list of registered voters. The Commonwealth also maintains in its computers a complete voter list.

On election day the Election Warden, Election Clerk, and their assistants are in charge of the polling place, the ballot box, the election workers, and the vote counting. The Town Clerk does not have a part in this aspect but is on hand with a street list of all Town residents, which can be used to resolve questions about those who want to vote but whose names are not on the registered voters list. (Resident citizens who are not registered but who show up at the polling place hoping to vote can, if they verify they are not registered elsewhere, register and vote an escrow ballot; these ballots are not counted unless there is a recount. There were six such votes cast in Monterey this year.) In Monterey, as we all know, voting is still done by using a pencil to mark boxes on the ballot. To avoid any chance of confusion about the voter's intent, erasures are not allowed (which is why the pencils in the booths have no erasers), but if a mistake is made, the voter can ask for a replacement ballot (up to three replacements are allowed).

When the poll closes, the election officers unlock and empty the ballot box, relock the side door, and close and lock the ballot slot; the counter is left showing the final number (497 this year, representing an 82 percent turnout). The voter check-in list is checked against check-out list; the number of voters must agree on both lists, and this number is checked against the ballot box counter. The officers and election workers (also appointed by the Select Board with the intention of party balance, including independents) then separate the ballots into bundles of fifty, plus a bundle with the leftovers, and verify that the total number agrees with the ballot box number. Then working in teams of two (not of the same party), the election workers go through the ballots and tally the votes. If the counters and the election officers can't determine the will of the voter because, for instance, two or more boxes are marked for one position (say someone snuck an eraser into the voting booth, made an incomplete erasure, and then marked another box), the vote for that office or ballot question is not counted. This year there were six counting teams, and the count took about two hours (see p. 1 for results). The election officers and workers are all paid the same hourly rate by the Town (but not the Town Clerk since work on election days is part of the regular duties).

After the election the Town Clerk turns in the results, certified with the Town Seal on an official form, to the Secretary of State. I asked Barbara Swann if the Commonwealth had an automatic recount if the difference between two candidates is less than a certain percentage, but no automatic recount is mandated in the Commonwealth's election laws. However any candidate on the ballot can contest the election and petition for a recount within thirty days, or 1,000 registered voters (or ten voters for a town election) can petition for a recount within ten days of the election (six days for a primary).

As I was talking to Linda Thorpe about the ballot box, she asked me if I had noticed what it was sitting on. I had to admit that I had not, but I am certainly going to look the next time. It turns out that some elections ago the election officers found the perfect pedestal to place the box at the right height for easy operation of the crank. It is the firehouse mop bucket. In Monterey we have all the procedures and tools in place for squeaky clean elections.

— Will Marsh

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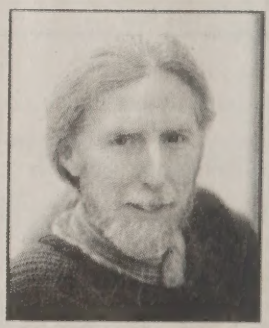

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

December . . . the last month of the year. It's strange, but I love winter. The land opens up, everything becomes quiet and frozen, and I can hear myself think. Summer is noisy and overwhelming for me, but winter gives me a chance to ask myself and God questions. But this season is different: my otherwise calm, cool soul gets distracted by the ruckus of my culture and my religion. It's a nice dark, cold month that we fill with bright colors, candles, shopping, cookies, blinking lights, and all that stuff. Our ancestors discovered how hard the beginning of winter can be, so they marked it as a festival time. But even a good idea can be taken a bit far!

The holidays these days seem to: stress us out, depress us, and/or bore us — since it's the same decorations, same music, same stories, every year. We struggle with the ethics of commercialism on the one hand, and with what the heck to get Aunt Beth this year on the other. Or with the health value of cranberry jello (my family actually makes this, and puts mayo on top; absolutely gross — I'm from the Midwest, what can I say?), and whose family do we spend time with when? It's nuts. Not much room there for savoring the beauty and spirit of life.

For many years, I felt obligated to redefine what the Christmas (and Easter) season meant to me. I felt I should have a new inner meaning for the holidays to keep myself from, again: getting stressed out, depressed, and/or bored. But I've found I don't like celebrating holidays on an intellectual level. Holy days are meant for our minds and hearts and bodies and souls; they are reminders that this life is a cycle, and precious. So lately, I try to just be present, to let the decorations, the music, the stories, and the rituals just soak through me.

This month, we imitate most closely the ways people have celebrated life since prehistory. We use light, music, stories, and symbols, we have parties, we eat too much . . . these are things people have done since forever! So, I invite you to notice how it feels to be here, as we celebrate our winter holy days again. These are ancient traditions — with some slight variations, certainly (internet shopping, jello, muzak, bubble lights) — but traditions, still, that wind us into the wide skein of human time.

Dean Amidon

Tarsi, Susan, and Oona Sellew on fall foliage tour with Cassie, Wellman Road.

Meetinghouse Schedule:

All are welcome to our Advent ("waiting time") series: tea and talk at the parsonage, 478 Main Rd., Fridays, 7 p.m.

Dec. 1 Hope

Dec. 8 Star in the East: Astrology and Advent, with MaryKate Jordan

Dec. 15 Joy

Dec. 22 Peace

Special services: December 24, Christmas Eve, 10 a.m., morning worship; 7 p.m., service of stories and carols

And don't forget the Gould Farm tableau, at the sheep barn on Christmas Eve, 8 to 9 p.m.

— Heidi Haverkamp

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Heidi Haverkamp, Pastor

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Heidi Haverkamp 528-5850

Monterey Fire Department
For Fire, Emergency: Dial 911

The Monterey Fire Department meets for emergency medical training almost every Wednesday evening, and the first Wednesday of every month also features a business meeting. This happens at the firehouse at the top of the hill where the American flag flies day and night, a vigilant symbol of a volunteer spirit that brings members together to practice protection of the populace and property. The membership includes twenty-one dedicated individuals who avail themselves of training to be able to go into action as a highly disciplined team.

The Fire Department has an organizational ladder, and naturally on the top rung of the chart is Chief Ray Tryon, followed by two Assistant Chiefs, Maynard Forbes and Leigh Tryon; Captain Mark Makuc; and two E.M.T. Captains, Paul Makuc and Del Martin. Then the organization begins to look more like a supporting pyramid. There are three Lieutenants and one Diver Lieutenant, two Emergency Medical Technicians, (both women), four firefighters, and five Junior Firefighters (young men and women). Most of these volunteers reside and make their living here, so one way for us all to show our appreciation of their efforts is to support local businesses and services in Monterey.

The meeting of the first Wednesday in November began with a simulated nighttime automobile accident medical rescue drill, and then moved inside the building for the business report. The good news was that the recent Firemen's Ball was well attended and has become an important fund-raising event on a level approaching the annual Steak Roast. A date for the annual Firemen's Membership Dinner was set for December 14, again to be held at Gedney Farm. After a blue-sky discussion about ways the Fire Department could show the town their own appreciation for a history of a strong following and continued support, two near-term gestures were approved. An amount of $500.00 is to be donated to the Hospice here, in memory of Marion Thomson, recently deceased mother of firefighter Warren Thomson, and longtime Monterey resident. Then it was decided to pledge $1000.00 for a matching grant from the residents of Monterey, to be coordinated with our Tree Warden, for planting new trees to beautify Monterey.

The simulation of an actual automobile accident medical rescue earlier in the evening was safely staged at the side of Fox Hill Road near the hockey rink. An expendable van had been made available, and when it was pulled over on its side using a tow chain hooked up to a four-wheel-drive pickup in low gear, it set the scene of realistic conditions. The rescue team had to gain access by breaking the windshield or using the Jaws of Life, and finally extricated a real person inside who supposedly was both trapped and badly injured. The drill was then repeated to perfect and reinforce proper medical precautions by all the participants.

A diversity of emergencies can arise during any given month, and the *Monterey News* as a service to the town hopes to publish a regular Fire Department blotter of the number and types of calls actually received. For instance there were nine calls in November: one oil burner; two propane gas leaks; four medical calls; one auto accident; one alarm activation.

The auto accident was an overturned truck at the sharp bend of Keyes Corner on Route 23, about a mile east of the center or town. For the Fire Department to have state-of-the-art training and equipment seems to bear out Benjamin Franklin's belief that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". It follows that he would be the one who founded the first fire department in a new nation, in the city of Philadelphia. In his mind, it may have been conceived in the concept of colonial minutemen during the previous frontier skirmishes. At the sound of a cannon, the farmers would leave their plowshares behind and muster on the common, flintlock and powder horn in hand, ready to do battle, an image portrayed by Daniel Chester French's minuteman statue in Concord. No less an image of this spirit is the artwork illustrating early firefighting, such as the bucket brigades, hand-powered pumpers, and horse-drawn firewagons like the one we get to see in present-day Monterey parades.

In this day and age, our firemen are called to duty electronically, activated by the beepers each of them carries, almost instantaneously after a call to 911. There is also an immediate and progressive setting of conditions that notifies other fire stations they now are, or might be, needed for the emergency at hand. Little wonder that firemen almost everywhere

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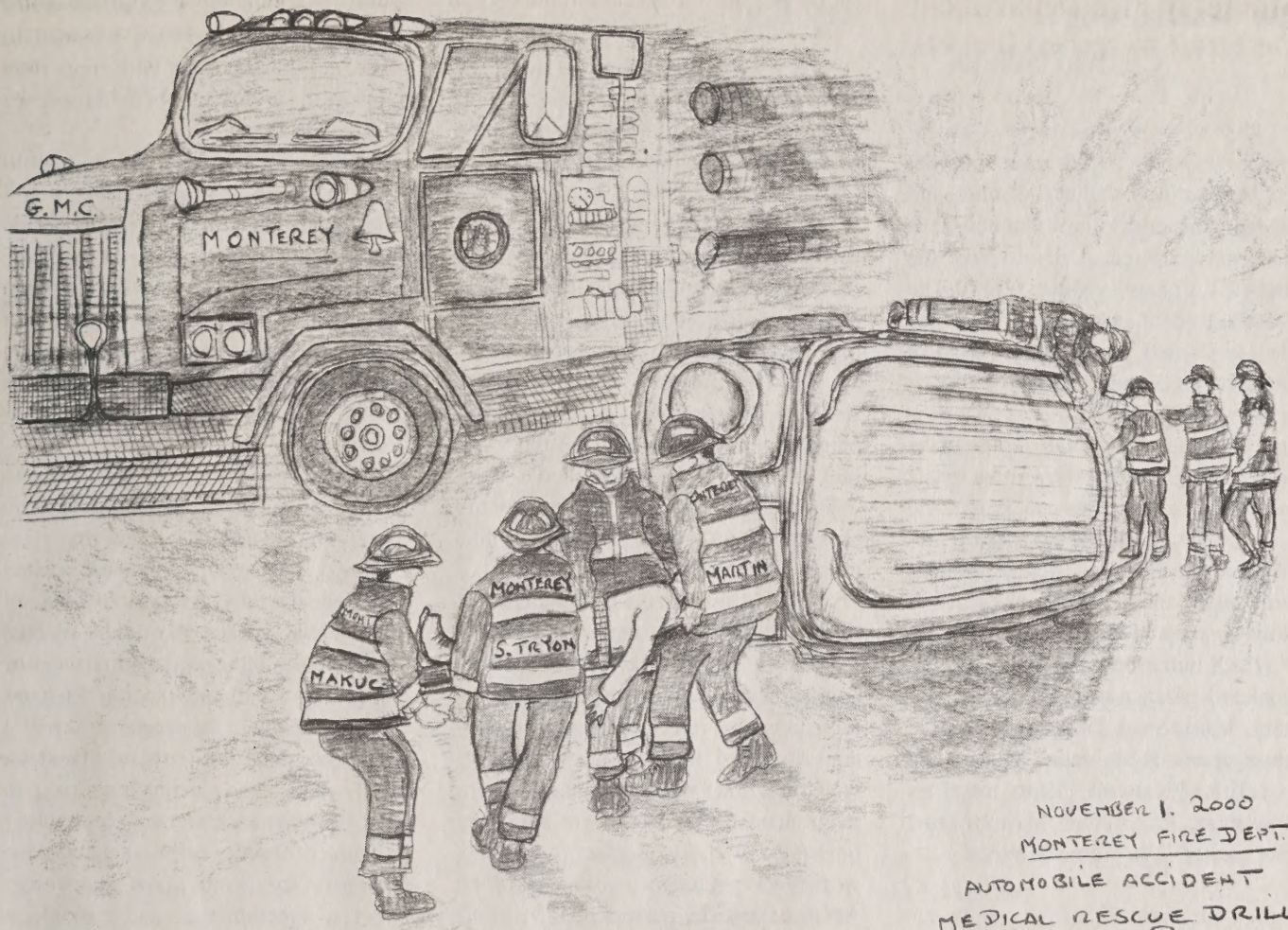

NOVEMBER 1. 2000
MONTEREY FIRE DEPT.
AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT
MEDICAL RESCUE DRILL
G.B. Emmons

share a common bond and commitment of cooperation. The Monterey Fire Department attended a memorial service as far away as Worcester, for those who died when a warehouse blaze got out of control when a prompt alarm was not sounded. In 1998, Caroline Paul, daughter of Mark Paul of Brookmead Farm in Monterey and one of the first women in the San Francisco Fire Department, had her book *Fighting Fire* published. It became a best seller on the list of the *New York Times Book Review*. In the last chapter, she describes riding, in a fire truck memorial procession for fallen comrades. As the huge Mack engines and pumpers proudly painted fire-engine red move solemnly along, there is the sound of tolling brass bells and the low wail of the sirens. Such sounds raise the haunting question of why it had to happen and how it might have been prevented.

In towns across America, the organization of a fire department and its members are one of the main structures that define and determine a binding common interest. Whatever your own support and participation might be, the most important single thought to come away with is to dial 911 without delay at the very first sign of trouble. The life or property you save may be your own!

— George Emmons

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New Marlborough Central School

The New Marlborough Central School received a PASS grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. This grant enabled three grades to visit the Pittsfield Community Music School. The school's resident ensemble, The Linden Trio, performed the narrative musical composition "Grandmother Spider Steals the Sun," by Alice Spatz. This work is based on a Cherokee Indian tale about the creation of light, and it shows how music is used to tell a story. Possum, Eagle, and Grandmother Spider are assigned themes and musical techniques. These techniques were shown to the children and their responses were invited.

The Linden Trio has been the ensemble in residence at the Pittsfield Community Music School since 1987. It consists of pianist Hilda Banks Shapiro and cellist Erica Pickhardt, faculty members at the school. The violinist, Marion Maby, is the school's Executive Director.

ॐ

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Rep Rap

As I write this column it is a week before Thanksgiving and Americans still have no idea who their president will be when President Clinton leaves office in January. Only a couple hundred votes separate the candidates. This is the closest election many of us have ever seen; it really is history unfolding before us. This drama only further reinforces the point that every vote really does count.

Prior to Election Day I offered to work on Vice President Al Gore's campaign as it neared the final stretch. As luck may have it, I was assigned to work in Broward County, Florida. So I got my absentee ballot, voted, and took off on a plane to the Sunshine State.

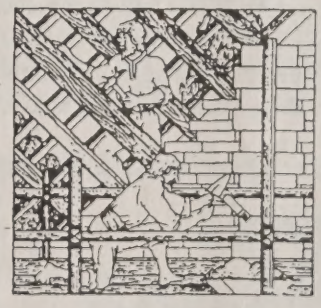
When I got there I was assigned to run two precincts to direct Get Out The Vote efforts in that area. As Election Day approached, the importance of spin doctors, television interviews, and commercials dwindled. By that time most voters have their mind made up, but each campaign needs to be sure to get their supporters to the polls. So for four days, I worked phone banks, calling identified Al Gore supporters to remind them of the election and to see if they needed a ride to the polls. I toiled among some very dedicated volunteers: people of all ages, races, and backgrounds. We held signs at rallies and during rush hour to get our message across. Get Out The Vote drives aren't sophisticated but they are intended to make individual contact with supporters to insure the importance of their presence on Election Day.

When Election Day arrived I could not have anticipated the drama that would unfold. Early the next morning the Florida contest, and the presidency at that, was still undecided. I left Florida with the impression that every vote does count and that people can still make a difference by volunteering in a campaign or simply pulling the lever in the voting booth.

As this experience unfolds, I am reminded of my first campaign for state representative in 1982. I won that election by 6 votes and my opponent wanted to dispute the tally. As a result, I did not know I was indeed the newly elected state representative until the first week of December, a full month after Election Day. The power of the people at the ballot box is enormous and one that I never take lightly. They are placing their trust in your hands and as an elected official I will never forget or betray that awesome responsibility. Your votes and voices count, at election time and throughout the year.

Happy Holidays,

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins



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— SINCE 1982 —

Senator Says

The close outcome of the presidential race in Florida and other states has provided fresh, real-world lessons about voting, the electoral college, state and federal relations, and the checks and balances among branches of government. One of the controversial lessons of the Florida election process was learned by Massachusetts a few years ago, however.

Punch-Card Pits and Pitfalls

Just four years ago, two Democrats faced off in the primary for the open congressional seat in Massachusetts' Tenth District, serving communities southeast of Boston. Although Phil Johnston was initially declared the winner, a Superior Court ruling led to a victory for then Norfolk District Attorney William Delahunt after election officials were instructed to include in the final count punch-card ballots that had not been "punched" all the way through.

Evidence presented in the Delahunt case showed that one problem with the punch-card ballot system is that some voters do not insert the ballot properly into the marking unit. On commonly used punch-card devices, there are two small buttons on the unit that correspond with small holes on the top of the ballot. If the holes on the ballot and the buttons on the marking device are not lined up exactly, the ballot may not be marked correctly. The machine that counts the ballots is designed to register only fully punched holes at precise locations on the ballot. Critics of the system complain that high proportions of unintended "blank" ballots were registered in tenth congressional district communities using the punch-card systems.

Case law in Massachusetts and other states has long established that determining "the will of the voter" is the central goal of the election process. In the Delahunt case, the judge ruled that will could not be accurately determined unless the partially perforated punch-card ballots were examined by hand instead of relying on the machine count. Based on the ruling, Delahunt took the primary by the slim margin of 108 votes, and soon won the general election to become the newest member of the Commonwealth's congressional delegation. "The Delahunt Decision" has been cited by lawyers appearing before the Florida Supreme Court in the matter of the Bush/Gore recount.

Innovation and Tradition

The punch-card controversy in Massachusetts was in full flower during my first term as State Senator. Public servants at both the state and local level recognized that voter confidence in the integrity and accuracy of the electoral process would be increased by eliminating the use of punch-card systems in the 35 Massachusetts municipalities that employed them at the time. As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws at the time, I was able to expedite legislation to establish a low-interest loan fund for cities and towns to replace punch cards with improved ballot-casting systems.

The state Voting Equipment Loan Program created by the legislature in the wake of the Delahunt decision in 1997 allowed eligible cities and towns to make their own choice among vote-casting systems, and to repay the loans over the course of ten years. Many of the larger municipalities chose manually operated voting machines which use a series of levers corresponding to each candidate or ballot question. In a recent national publication, one technician called these old machines "foolproof; impossible to tamper with." Some cities and towns have moved to the use of optical scanners for casting and counting ballots. Although electronic machines are ordinarily used for counting, the ballots are marked so that the results can be examined by hand when necessary.

Most of the towns in my district are small enough to remain among the 112 Commonwealth communities that use paper ballots, marked with an old-fashioned pencil and counted by hand. Town Clerks, candidates, and voters in the area seem satisfied that the low-tech paper ballots provide a straightforward means of interpreting each voter's intent, even when a recount is deemed necessary.

Within our lives, Internet voting may become practical. Whatever method your community uses to conduct its elections, the lessons of Massachusetts' Delahunt case and of the Florida election will be debated for years to come. One of these lessons is a reminder that we must constantly examine, and be ready to improve, the democratic process. Another lesson is that fair, thoughtful human judgment will always be necessary to ensure that elections reflect the will of the voters. Our democracy is too important to take for granted.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Son et Lumiere

Definitions by silence
are painful
by darkness
most difficult
day by day
by joining the dots
like stars
night by night
I have computed the
stark outline
of my longing:
it sounds
like you
exactly like you
and in my dreams
it flickers
like a promise
were it but filled with son et lumiere
that I might know
if there is any difference.

— A. O. Howell

It has no bounds
for it is formless.
It has no creator
for it is timeless.

It cannot be conceived
for it is beyond thought.
It cannot be controlled
for it is always present.

It is nameless
for it is void of all distinctions.

— Ann M. LaVallee

This Old House

In the lush House of my flush decades
Wildchild Lust, settler down cellar,
lurked among boilers, prowled ash-
pit and oil tanks; through
an abundance of periscopes regarded
the scenery, and hurled up his ineluctable
fiats by pullcord and megaphone

In the same flush House, lush in the
attic, roaming the rafters, and spying
through any eave-shadowed window —
Old Granny Pity by pullcord and speaking
tube pitched out her implacable commands

Groans from the cellar, shakings from
the rafters, blended in the chambers a
discordant music, the House danceable
and joyous with discordant music

Now Wildchild Lust is shrivelled
to cinder, lost in an ash pit, and
the Old Granny Pity rots on
the rafters; down among the oil
tanks, milksop Affection; up
in the attic, my pale Lady
Obligation. The unengaged House
indifferently attends
an uninsistent wangle of a meager windup box

— Jim Michelman

naked november

naked november
tree bone and leaf rug
tarnish and rust or
pewter and old gold
light fickle, less free
toast and frost for breakfast
wind whip to quick dark
ghosts abide a gibbous moon
sun and we resign
in rosen memory
cumulous
luminous

of daffodil days . . .
cold spit and drizzle
these same old flurries
hurry and scribble
these same old verses:
time to raise a glass!
though old enough to drink
you're too young to see
a green fool, moon struck,
flower stoned, dancing
naked . . . remember!

— R. Zukowski
11/2000
for L.Y.Z., P.T., B.H.

the last of what was

we surely know by now
your birthday and old Michaelmas'
that things have changed and how
pick we must the last of what was
blossom herb and a word
some uttered sequence of a part
of what once we preferred
pulled along like a donkey cart
full of mountain flowers
to the festival of grass stained
feet below the tower-
ing maples tiny hand ordained
by the berry bush to
pray for all hungry animals

cold to the toes the dew
reminds us that great criminal
waits in the shadowy
hills and the darkest avenues
for one clear and cloud free
night to collect his revenue
from every reveller
yes we know he works for the Law
but this dream queer spell or
pollen high is cake for the jaws

— R. Zukowski

Haiku

Sparkling in the dark
fire-flies dance in the meadow;
no other movement.
*

The ocean is still
reflecting snow-capped headlands;
gulls break the silence.
*

Early morning dew
sparkling for a span in time —
silently absorbed.
*

— Ann M. LaVallee

Clear as Mud
Brewer Pond in Winter

This time of year we have low tide on the lake, and Brewer Pond, too. For people who like their water bodies filled up and sparkling, it's a time to visit other lakes and ponds, or even the ocean, where the tide is sure to cover up the mudflats at least twice a day.

As a lifelong pro-weeds, anti-drawdown activist, I have often shied away from Lake Garfield in the winter. It's not because I am put off by mudflats; it's just that as a biologist I know what freezing and drying do to the hibernating lake creatures, not adapted to biannual tidal rhythms. And as a sympathetic, self-aware member of the Community Earth, I am full of species guilt on the subject of environmental tampering.

Lately I have been considering the important differences between guilt and responsibility, between control and awareness. In the spirit of acceptance and letting go, I went for a walk today on the Brewer Pond Trail, to see what I could see. It was that moment between leaf-fall and snowfall: it was late November mudtime.

Up the "new dam," over still-fragrant wild thyme, the first thing I came upon was evidence of nighttime picnicking. This was animals gathered around the new wooden Park Commission table, with colorful torch/candles and at least one can of Citra. It must have been a windy night, judging by the heaps of wooden matches needed to get those candles lit. I'd say the party hadn't lasted long, as the short torches were only half gone. Or maybe it took place way back during daylight savings time.

My dog Ruby and I, brilliant in our orange safety vests, headed around the trail clockwise, past the first several numbered guideposts, and discovered more evidence of nocturnal partying. This time it was a handsome green suet holder, sprung and empty, about 20 feet off the trail. I picked it up, thinking I might find

out which abutters suffered a raid on their bird feeding station. Could have been a bear, or raccoon, or squirrel, or even a dog like Ruby. By now the very last luscious molecules are gone, probably cleaned up by slugs and such. I know there is not a trace left because Ruby does not give it any notice.

We get to the shallow shelf, place of Russian olives, blueberries, and cattails. I had an experience here with paper wasps when I was working on the trail a couple of years ago. Today I can walk out the beaver channel (post #10) onto the mudflat and look at the little craters left by territorial sunfish. In the summer, the fish keep these places dug out and fanned clean. Today, I am an alien walking on the surface of the fish-mud moon.

I am just nudging at a broken white canoe paddle with my toe, when a shot rings out. Certainly deer have been here, also several sizes of dogs. Near the white paddle blade there is a black hair comb, the kind known thirty years ago as an Afro comb.

We come to a large rounded rock, a glacial erratic with two major dimples in its surface, containing brilliant green grass gardens, on this glowery November day. The rock is granite, with broad quartz veins and a reddish stripe all the way around, marking the waterline. Seven months of the year this is a whale just off shore, a good place for fisherfolk to stand, also (as I can tell today) muskrats and geese.

Ruby and I follow the trail back into the woods, past the pearly everlastings, over the plank walkway, and out to the roadbank. From here we can look across Tyringham Road to the mudflats of Lake Garfield. Certainly it looks unnatural, but I like to remember that this is the original size and shape of the lake, before it was dammed up in the first place. Down at the east end, these muddy months, we can see where Dad Keyes pastured his cows. If I picture those ghostly Holsteins now,

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they are like me, out of place on the fish-mud moon.

I poke around the mud and sand by the culverts: empty bait containers and beer bottles. Might I spot an arrowhead? We have a neighbor famous for his collection from the lakeshore. He has the arrowhead-spotting gift — I am good for wild strawberries and lost jewelry. Here I see gleaming rainbow nacre, the inside of mussel shells left by picnicking muskrats and raccoons. There is the broken neck of a beer bottle, jagged side up. I pick it up and put it in my suet holder as Ruby comes slopping my way.

By the iron culverts I notice flakes of rust fanned out over the mudflat like a textbook delta. I remember the red ring around the glacial whale and wonder if these culverts are the color source.

Suddenly, all internal ponderings are scattered by the tumultuous arrival of a vast flock of blackbirds! They come from over by Helen Shaw's house, tumbling and swelling in a noisy cloud, sometimes dense and sometimes diffuse. Like emotion this wave of birds fills the sky, the world, then centers on the sugar maples over by Frank D'Amato's. They settle there, like chattering black leaves kicked up by the wind and replaced on the bare branches — but only for a few seconds. Something inspires them, all the many thousands of them at once, to swirl up again and be gone.

I am breathless, filled up, and emptied out. We make it back to the car, note the fox droppings by guidepost #24 ("turtle eggs"), and head for home. During a coffee stop at the General Store, Ruby takes liberties with muddy feet on the car seats, and when I climb back in and crank up the heater I smell lake mud and fish craters, compost and creation. I hope I can remember why I should visit Brewer Pond off-season. It should be clear as mud.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Glynis Oliver

Brewer Pond

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Monterey: A Place in Time
Part 2

This is the second installment in Michele Miller's cultural/geographical history of Monterey. Part 1, printed in last month's issue, described the local geography and the precolonial Native American presence.

In 1735 four townships were laid out along the road that connected Boston to Albany, among them Township #1, later called Tyringham. Each town was six miles square, laid out in a grid of lots apparently without regard for the lay of the land. A further grant of land made to Tyringham added both Six and Twelve Mile Ponds, so described because of their distance from Sheffield.

Although the Dutch had been active over the region at some earlier time, the first white settlement was by European colonists of Calvinist belief in 1739. The site was chosen to be easily defended from attackers and away from the swampy, thicket-filled lowlands. Captain John Chadwick and Daniel Garfield were the first to arrive, establishing themselves along the road on the southern slope of a ridge which ran through the middle of Township #1. According to one of Garfield's descendants, the two were there three months without seeing another human being. Hale, Slater or Slaton, and Curtis soon followed. It is thought that the men arrived first and cleared and built log cabins over several summers before bringing their wives and children.

In 1740, Captain John Brewer arrived to establish a sawmill on the Konkapot River below Twelve Mile Pond (now Lake Garfield). Brewer was forty-three years old when he moved from Hopkinton with his wife, Hannah, and eleven children, to this untamed region. His youngest of thirteen, Josiah, born in 1744, was also the father of thirteen. Land grants were large and farmsteads as much as half a mile apart. Capt. Brewer first built a stockade at a fork in the "Great" Road and then a large house nearby, not far from the sawmill and gristmill, which stands today.

Chadwicks and Garfields proliferated as well. Col. Giles Jackson is reputed to have fathered two dozen children. Cemetery inscriptions tell the story of intermarriages, births, and deaths. Captain Brewer was the first to lie in Henwood Cemetery when he died at age fifty-six. The names Orton, Hale, Langdon, Curtis, Townsend, Fargo, Harmon, Taylor, Dowd, and Thompson are well represented in the older cemeteries as well as in place names. Brewer Pond, Harmon Road, Bidwell Road, Orton Hill, Morse Corners, Langdon Store, and Fargo Pond remind us of those who settled here first.

In 1740, a vote was taken to build a Meetinghouse, a necessary first step to incorporation as a town. It was also in 1740 that Cornelius Dowd arrived from New Marlborough to settle on Hupi Road, north of Twelve Mile Pond.

The old town center clustered along the so-called Post Road, which branched off of the Great Road east of Brewer Pond and climbed along Mt. Hunger past the Meetinghouse and on toward Ice Glen in Stockbridge through what is now Beartown. The name Beartown is attributed to Captain John Chadwick in honor of its numerous inhabitants. Royal Hemlock Road ran over the mountain to Hop Brook by 1743 and Carrington-Battelle Road, Griswold Road, and Hupi Road were soon opened.. Brace Road, which is now part of the Appalachian Trail, connected to Fernside, as did Royal Hemlock. Another road, now abandoned, ran over Mt. Hunger to the Old Center. The Post Road is now known as Mt. Hunger Road east of the Tyringham Road and Art School Road to the west. Beartown Mountain Road also follows the Post Road some distance before turning down along Brewer Pond to the current town center.

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By 1745, the meetinghouse, partially built, had to be secured against possible attack in the French and Indian Wars. It was 1750 before the first meeting was held there and a committee formed to choose a minister. Reverend Adonijah Bidwell was appointed to the post, in which he served until 1784.

According to a church census of 1765, when the church had 50 members, Township #1 had 51 houses, 55 families, and 336 inhabitants. Only a few at that time had traded their lots on the top of the hill for 45-acre plots bordering Hop Brook to the north. In 1766, the first schoolhouse was built on lot #43, either at the corner of Beartown and Carrington-Battelle Roads or, as some would have it, further out on Beartown near a huge boulder.

By 1780, Moses Fargo had settled on Chestnut Hill, then part of Sandisfield, and a general store was doing business in the mill district along the Konkapot. Isaac Harmon also arrived in the late 1700s, settling first on Mt. Hunger then in 1816 moving south of the Konkapot along the New Marlborough Stage Road to the farmhouse built in 1786 by Thompson Rawson, one mile closer to town than where we live.

These early settlers were fortunate to have a sawmill. Two houses made of clay brick were built about 1760 in the original town center, but most construction was of wood, timber framing, and clapboards.

Glynis Oliver

Township #1 was incorporated as Tyringham in 1762. Between 1775 and 1783, the colonists waged the war of independence, and many residents of the town were occupied during those years with supporting that effort. The turmoil of Shay's Rebellion and an outbreak of smallpox touched them in the late 1780s. Without a minister, the meetinghouse fell into disrepair. In 1790, this first meetinghouse, which had served residents as sanctuary, public forum, and spiritual center, burned, precipitating or perhaps exposing a rift growing between the "Hop Brookers" and the "Konkapoters." Already in 1779, the residents of North Tyringham had erected a house of worship to serve when weather prevented them from making the long climb up the north side of the ridge to the town center.

Until the War of Independence, British law forbade manufacture in the colonies. In the twenty years that followed the war, mills sprang up on every stream. By 1796, the economic life of the town was split between two centers, where the activity was based on water power and major transport routes linking them to larger population centers. Where the strength of the town had been in its remoteness and ability to subsist by agriculture, the turn of the century was about

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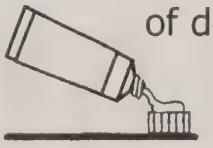

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Route 23 Monterey

commerce and connection. Geography dictated the future. By 1798, the two centers required two meetinghouses, one in Hop Brook and one closer to the economic center becoming known as Bangall.

Census and tax records from 1802, show the population to be 1,712, residing in 155 houses and having 164 barns. Two stores sold supplies. There were four slaughterhouses, two tanneries, and thirteen mills, though this number represents a decrease in grist mills over previous years. Wealth was still described in agricultural terms, acreage and livestock, although it was also clear that the shift was to a market economy. In North Tyringham, the Shakers numbered 53.

— Michele Miller

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for December

For the coming winter holidays we'd like to wish for you (to the tune of "Twelve Days of Christmas"):

12 frogs a-leaping,
11 red swim caps,
10 great blue herons,
9 brushed out chimneys,
8 largemouth bass,
7 1.6 gallon flushes,
6 rotting milfoil,
5 calling loons,
4 sanded drives,
3 clean septics,
2 evergreens,
And a natural mountain tree line.

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New Crofut CD Benefits Children's Charities

The holiday season is a time for giving and, if you're like me, you're thrilled when an item you purchase benefits a worthy cause.

Dance on a Moonbeam is an enchanting 24-track CD of traditional songs, settings of poetry, and the magical words of Shakespeare created for both children and adults by the extraordinary musician Bill Crofut, with Meryl Streep, Dawn Upshaw, Ben Luxon, Frederica von Stade, Chris Brubeck, and others. All the incredible artists on this CD donated their talents so that the proceeds could benefit children through the Simple Gifts for Children Fund.

This was Bill's last project before he died in January of 1999 of cancer. The Simple Gifts for Children Fund was set up at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation specifically for this project.

In a review of the CD for Amazon.com, Andrew Bartlett writes: "It's hard to even begin hanging musical descriptors on the late Bill Crofut. He came up during the folk boom of the 1950s and even then quietly defied tradition by setting the words of American poets such as Robert Penn Warren to banjo-inflected music, something he continued doing throughout his career with a variety of wordsmiths. *Dance on a Moonbeam* is his final treasure, a gift of sorts to children and their parents, delivered after Crofut's death in January 1999. Steeped in Shakespeare's words and a magical ability to weave together Renaissance-era moods and American folk music, *Moonbeam* exudes a warmth and soulfulness that Crofut and musical partner Chris Brubeck create with the simplest instrumentations—banjo, bass, piano, cello, and voices, mostly. Meryl Streep interjects brief readings of Shakespeare, a lovely complement to an incredible mix of Crofut's rustic folk with classically trained singers such as Dawn Upshaw, Julianne Baird, and Frederica von Stade. 'Dandling Songs,' 'The Bear,' 'Simple Gifts,' and 'All Through the Night' alone

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among these 26 stellar cuts make this one of the best children's music recordings in ages. It eschews the simple means to a child's ear and instead aims for the heart and soul, which *Moonbeam* reaches over and over with wit and creative depths that will unfold for ages."

By including this CD in your holiday giving plans, you will give the gift of music to your loved ones and feel good knowing that each CD sold will help a variety of children's causes such as the Berkshire Children's Health Program. To order, learn more, or listen to samples, visit www.danceonamoonbeam.org or call 800-833-8668. The CD is $15.95 and there are quantity discounts for over ten copies.

Like many unique and special things that have no huge commercial machine to promote them, the sale of *Dance on a Moonbeam* depends upon word of mouth. It would be great, if you love the music and believe in the project, if you could join the growing group of people who are helping to spread the word about this CD. For instance, consider buying it for five friends. Ask them to listen and if they like it, ask them to buy five for their friends, and so on. You get the idea. Spread the word, so together we can make a difference.

Happy Holidays!

— Liana Toscanini

ॐ

Have Needle, Will Time Travel . . .

Peace on Earth, from Croatia to Monterey

Even though the red and green motifs do bear a distinct resemblance to the bells associated with seasonal greeting cards, that isn't a pattern from an old American Christmas sampler. It's a corner of an embroidered tablecloth Alice O. Howell brought from Dubrovnik in 1980, and gave to me last week. Still, sharing the pattern in the *News* at this time of year might be a catalyst for a little Peace-on-Earth making.

If you enjoy cross-stitch embroidery, use the pattern to create a Peace-on-Earth wallhanging for your home. Hang it for the holidays, or leave it up year round as a symbol of faith and hope. If you're not a stitcher, just spend a little time with the illustration.

Imagine the pealing of joyful bells, worldwide, announcing a thousand years of peace. Let those bells ring wave after wave of peace through your heart and soul. Then, as you move through our weary, needy, beautiful, bountiful world, pass it along. And have a happy holiday season.

— MaryKate Jordan

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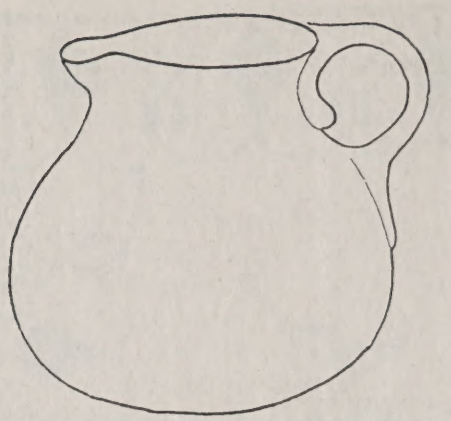

Personal Notes

Happy Birthday wishes go to **Stefan Grotz** on the 1st, **Susan Sellew** and **Graham & Madigan Hines** on the 3rd, **Karen Schulze** on the 5th, **Jacob Edelman** and **Simon Spagnoletti** on the 7th, **Michael Mielke** on the 8th, **Natasha Grotz** on the 12th, **Stacy Ingher** and **Morgan Clawson** on the 20th, **Don Amstead** on the 25th, **Eliana Schulze** and **Eloisa Shapiro** on the 27th, and **Jon Pratt** on the 28th.

Happy Anniversary to **Glynis Oliver and Will Marsh** on the 27th.

Congratulations to **Annabel Edelman** for making the Honor Roll for the first quarter. Annabel is a sixth-grade student at Lenox Memorial Middle School. Congratulations also go to **Dinah Mielke** for qualifying for Talent Search 2001: Fifth and Sixth Grades, sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth. Dinah is a sixth-grade student at Undermountain Elementary.

Academic accolades go out to Mt. Everett seniors **Hannah Bracken** and **Kate Vallianos.** Both young women have been named Commended Students in the 2001 National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2001 Merit program. Hannah has also been nominated for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award. This award recognizes academic and athletic accomplishments. Hannah is a captain of the varsity soccer and basketball teams as well as a member of the softball team. Congratulations to both of you.

Congratulations to **Claire Mielke** for making the AAU Western Masachusetts Cheetahs basketball team. The AAU season begins after the varsity season ends. AND the first home varsity game is Dec. 29th. Come on out and cheer on Kate, Hannah, Claire, and the rest of the Eagles team!

The Mt. Everett Fall Sports Banquet was held recently and the top three honors in girl's soccer were given out to three players from Monterey. **Hannah Bracken** was MVP, **Kate Vallianos** was awarded for sportsmanship, and **Carly Thomas** was most improved.

"The play's the thing . . . " and on Nov. 11th and 18th the play was *Richard III* performed by Mt. Everett students in conjunction with Shakespeare and Company's Fall Festival of Shakespeare 2000. Monterey students participating were **Lincoln Lipsky, Kate Vallianos, Gordon Hamm, Adam Schoenfarber,** and **Cora Baker.**

Future Shakespearean actors and actresses are honing their skills in a third- and fourth-grade production of *Are We There Yet ?*, described as a " musical with momentum." To be presented on December 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. and December 3 at 2 p.m. in the TACPAC at Mt. Everett, over seventy-five students are involved, among them from Monterey, **Macey Thomas, Keller Dinan,** and **Shoshanna Candee.** Monterey is also represented by music director **Anson Olds** and assistant director **Jennifer Brown.**

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December 1970: Monterey Scouts receiving Bobcat pins were Kenneth Heath, Shawn Ryder, and Darrell Lemmerman. Remo Pizzichemi received a Bear badge, a silver arrow, and a gold arrow. Johnny Andrus received a Wolf badge and a gold arrow.

December 1980: The Selectmen received a framed Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor in Monterey, California, for taking "second place honors" in the New England-Canada Energy Contest.

December 1990: Surely, Monterey can boast the finest community skating rink in the county. This year, we've added an enclosed area so that people can put on their skates in comfort out of the wind.

— Deborah Mielke

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Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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Calendar

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Fridays, December 1, 8, 15, 22: Advent series, 7 p.m., Monterey United Church of Christ parsonage. See p. 5; information 528-5850.

Saturday, December 2: Cell Towers Forum, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., at the Education Connection, Litchfield, Conn. A panel of experts discuss today's changing telecommunications landscape and what it means for local siting concerns. See p. 3.

Sunday, December 3: Concert by Berkshire Children's Chorus, 7 p.m., Divine Mercy Chapel, Stockbridge. $5 donation suggested.

Monday, December 4: No Select Board meeting.

Saturday, December 9: Shotgun season for deer ends.

Monday, December 11:
Full Moon.
Primitive firearm season for deer opens; runs through Saturday, December 16.

Friday, December 15: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up at Meetinghouse basement, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19: Free blood pressure clinic, 9–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Thursday, December 21:
Winter Solstice, 8:37 EST.
Chanukah begins at sunset.

Saturday, December 24:
Manger tableau, 8–9 p.m., Gould Farm sheep barn.
No square dance at the Sheffield Grange. See you in January.

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day, Town Offices closed.

Monday, January 1, 2001: New Year's Day, Town Offices closed.

ॐ

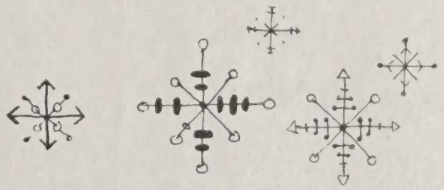
Contributors

This month we thank the following people for their recent contributions:

Irwin Grossman & Nancy Larkin
Martin Cherneff
Howard & Pat Nourse

The Observer
October 26—November 25

High temp. (10/26, 27)	70°
Low temp. (11/24)	6°
Avg. high temp.	46.9°
Avg. low temp.	31.3°
Avg. temp.	39.1°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	2.62"
Snowfall	4"
Precipitation occurred on 10 days	



Transfer Station Hours

Sunday ..... 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Hear ye, hear ye!

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Joe Baker, p. 12; George Emmons, p. 7; Glynis Oliver, pp. 18, 19.

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MONTEREY NEWS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MONTEREY, MA 01245

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